CLAIMS

Therefore, the following is claimed:

1. A method for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, comprising the steps of:

monitoring travel of said vehicle;

forwarding travel data to a computer associated with said user; and

producing a message at said computer for said user indicative of an impending arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop before said vehicle reaches said vehicle stop, based upon said travel data.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a location of said vehicle and comparing said location to mapping data; and

initiating said message to said computer when said vehicle is at a predetermined location from said vehicle stop based upon said comparison.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said message comprises a signal for a computer display.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said message comprises an audible sound.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting said user to preset a time period at said computer that determines when said message is produced, said time period corresponding to arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting said user to preset a distance at said computer that determines when said message is produced, said distance corresponding to arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting said user to preset a location of said vehicle on a map at said computer that determines when said message is produced.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting said user to preset a particular vehicle stop that determines when said message is produced, based upon when said vehicle arrives at said particular stop.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding another message to a telephone associated with said user in addition to said message to said computer, said another message indicating impending arrival of said vehicle.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing in said message a vehicle location.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said travel data is timing information.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said travel data is distance information.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring content of said vehicle; and

determining said vehicle stop based upon said content.

~~14. A system for notifying a user in advance of an impending~~ arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, comprising:

means for monitoring travel of said vehicle;

means for forwarding travel data to a computer associated with said user; and

means for producing a message at said computer for said user indicative of an impending arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop before said vehicle reaches said vehicle stop, based upon said travel data.

15. A system for an advance notification system that notifies a user of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, comprising:

(a) a computer associated with said user, said computer for producing a message at said computer for said user indicative of said impending arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop before said vehicle reaches said vehicle stop;

(b) a vehicle control unit disposed on said vehicle, said vehicle control unit having:

(1) a vehicle travel monitoring means;

(2) a vehicle transmitter adapted to transmit travel data based upon said vehicle travel monitoring means;

(3) a vehicle processor controlling said vehicle travel monitoring means and said vehicle transmitter; and

(c) a base station control unit having:

(1) a receiver adapted to receive said travel data from said vehicle control unit;

(2) a base station computer network link; and

(3) a base station processor controlling said receiver and said base station computer network link, said base station processor for establishing a

computer connection between said base station computer and said user computer and communicating said travel data.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said computer further comprises:

means for monitoring a location of said vehicle and comparing said location to mapping data; and

means for initiating said message to said computer when said vehicle is at a predetermined location from said vehicle stop based upon said comparison.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said message comprises a signal for a computer display.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein said message comprises an audible sound.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein said computer further comprises a means for permitting said user to preset a time period at said computer that determines when said message is produced, said time period corresponding to arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein said computer further comprises a means for permitting said user to preset a distance at said computer that determines when said message is produced, said distance corresponding to arrival of said vehicle at said vehicle stop.

21. The system of claim 15, wherein said computer further comprises a means for permitting said user to preset a location of said vehicle on a map at said computer that determines when said message is produced.

22. The system of claim 15, wherein said computer further comprises a means for permitting said user to preset a particular vehicle stop that determines when said message is produced, based upon when said vehicle arrives at said particular stop.

23 ~~22.~~ The system of claim 1, wherein said base station control unit further comprises:

a base station telephone interface controlled by said base station processor; and

a means for forwarding another message to a telephone associated with said user via said base station telephone interface, said another message indicating impending arrival of said vehicle.

24 ~~23.~~ The system of claim 1, wherein said message comprises a vehicle location.

25 ~~24.~~ The system of claim 1, wherein said travel data is timing information.

26 ~~25.~~ The system of claim 1, wherein said travel data is distance information.

27 ~~26.~~ The system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle control unit further comprises:

means for monitoring content of said vehicle; and

means for determining said vehicle stop based upon said content.

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Add G1